

national elements and following steps are taken in this direction:

1. Ensuring coordination with State Governments/ Intelligence agencies/investigating agencies of Central Government on matters relating to exchange of information, sharing of intelligence, planning of strategy and taking coordinated action.

2. Protection of International borders by

- (a) Fencing and flood lighting in the sensitive areas on international borders.
- (b) Strengthening the BSF on the borders through supply of night vision devices, hand held sets, binoculars, dragon lights etc. so as to enhance their capabilities.
- (c) Setting up additional BOPs (Border Out Posts) with a view to reduce inter BOP distance.

#### **Statutory Development Board**

5845. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made subsequent to an assurance given by the Government on the Floor of the House on September 10, 1996 regarding establishment of a Statutory Development Board for Konkan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Union Government's stand in the matter is that if the existing Development Board for the rest of Maharashtra, which includes Konkan, is not in a position to effectively cater to the developmental requirements of the Konkan region over the next couple of years and the Government is convinced that the area could be developed better if it is placed under a separate Development Board, then the matter of creation of a separate Development Board for Konkan can be considered.

**Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**

5846. SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR :  
SHRI N. DENNIS :  
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :  
SHRI RAMACHANDRABENDA CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :  
SHRI K.C. KONDIAH :  
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :  
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any critical review of the implementation of the persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1995 by the Central as well as State Governments has been made.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of allocations of amount made in the budget for the handicapped persons during the last three years and 1997-98;

(d) the details of the schemes for the welfare of the handicapped persons during the current year;

(e) whether any memoranda from the Joint Action Committee for the disabled persons has been received.

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been brought into force only on 7.2.96. It would be too early to conduct such an exercise.

(c) and (d) A Statement is enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Joint Action Committee in their memorandum dated 5.3.97 have demanded as follows

1. The contents of the National Trust for Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy Bill be made public and that a consultation be held with the representatives of the disability sector, particularly those from the field of mental retardations and cerebral palsy.
2. The notification regarding the constitution of the Central Coordination Committee be withdrawn and a fresh CCC be constituted in consultation with the representatives of the disability sector.
3. The Chief Commissioner be appointed.
4. The allocation for the disability division of Welfare Ministry be increased to Rs. 100 crores and the allocation for the National Handicapped Financial Development Corporation be increased to Rs. 200 crores in Budget 1997-98. Appropriate allocations may be made in other key Ministries also.
5. An allocation of at least Rs. 100 crores be made in the Rail Budget, 1997-98.
6. The so-called "Handicapped Welfare Department" of the Welfare Ministry be renamed as the "Disability Division" of the said Ministry.